GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:714
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
RECOMMENDATIONS OF EDITOR`S GUILD ON VIOLENCE IN GUJARAT
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Editor`s Guild of India for the appointmentof a judicial officer to examine the writings of those section of the media which the guild alleged incited violence and spread hatred in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether they have recommended any action against them; and

(c) if so, the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) The Editors Guild has suggested that a high judicial officer be appointed by theGovernment to examine the writings of those sections of the media that are prima facie in flagrant violation of the law and recommend what action, if any, should be taken against them.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Such issues are to be dealt with by the Press Council of India, which is at presentheaded by a retired Supreme Court Judge.The Press Council of India isresponsible for maintenance of high standards and encouraging the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among the media. The Councilmay also, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so, warn, admonish or censure any newspaper, agency, editor or journalist in cases where it feels that standards of journalistic ethics or public taste have been offended or a professional misconduct has been committed.